

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-06 L-03 AF-08 ARA-06 FEA-01

ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

USIA-06 SAL-01 ISO-00 /127 R

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APPROVED BY D/LOS:AGJAMES

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S/S - MR. BORG EUR - MR. WOLFE

L/OES - MR. BURTON

AF - MR. JAMES S/S - CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

XMT AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

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SUBJECT: ECOND SESSION - LOS CONFERENCE

1. THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE THIRD LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO END ON MAY 7. IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THE CURRENT SESSION WILL COMPLETE A TREATY BY THAT DATE. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, AS RECENTLY ENUNCIATED BY THE PRESIDENT, TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR. ACCORDINGLY THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT A SECOND NEGOTIATING SESSION THIS SUMMER IS ESSENTIAL IF THE CONFERENCE IS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF A WIDELY ACCEPTABLE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

2. AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES ARE REQUESTED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME TO MAKE A DEMARCHE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO URGE THAT THE LOS DELEGATIONS OF THE HOST COUNTRIES BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT THE HOLDING OF AN ADDITIONAL LOS CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ISSUE OF AN ADDITIONAL 1976 CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED SOON AT THE NEW YORK SESSION, SINCE THE PRESENT SESSION ENDS ON MAY 7. IN MAKING YOUR DEMARCHE YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 8 STATEMENT, AS WELL AS ON THE GUIDANCE IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW.

3. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW:

- THE CONFERENCE WAS AUTHORIZED BY UNGA RESOLUTION TO TAKE A DECISION TO CONVENE A SECOND SESSION IN 1976.

- SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON MANY KEY PROBLEMS AND MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED.

- IN THE ABSENCE OF A SECOND SESSION, EXISTING PRESSURES WILL BE FURTHER INCREASED FOR UNILATERAL ACTION (WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE THE CHANCES FOR ULTIMATE AGREEMENT OR PUT AGREEMENT BEYOND REACH).

- THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE DEMONSTRATED A DEEP INTEREST IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY TO LEAD THE US DELEGATION TO A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUMMER SESSION. IN THIS REGARD, THE PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY SAID, "THE NEED FOR A TIMELY AND SUCCESSFUL LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS EVEN MORE PRESSING TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. I HAVE DIRECTED OUR NEGOTIATORS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT, CONSISTENT WITH OUR BASIC INTERESTS, TO CONCLUDE THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR." THE SECRETARY, IN HIS APRIL 8 SPEECH, STATED, "THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT IF THE PRESENT SESSION DOES NOT COMPLETE ITS WORK,

ANOTHER -- AND FINAL -- SESSION SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED THIS SUMMER."

- A SESSION OF 6-8 WEEKS COMMENCING PERHAPS IN MID-JULY IN GENEVA COULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, WHILE PROVIDING A SUFFICIENT PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN SESSIONS FOR MEANINGFUL REVIEW OF THIS SESSION'S WORK AND PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION.

4. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS OF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS SOONEST. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, LAW OF THE SEA, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE099357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AGJAMES:BAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760155-0726
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760426/aaaaavku.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONC SESSION - LOS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PLOS, US, XX
To: ALL POSTS BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006